

RESOLUTION
By Cano, Palmisano, and Cunningham

Reaffirming the City's Pledge to combat commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of juveniles by expanding to include all forms of human trafficking and exploitation, against juveniles and adults, and labor trafficking.

Whereas, the trafficking of people of all ages is an issue of rising national impact and to address it the U.S. Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000 and has subsequently reauthorized the bill four times; and

Whereas, today, our community still experiences sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of the most marginalized and in 2016 a report titled “Asking the Right Questions: A Human Rights Approach to Ending Trafficking and Exploitation in the Workplace” by The Advocates for Human Rights detailed 17 incidents of labor trafficking in Minnesota reinforcing the fact that labor trafficking is an issue in our region; and

Whereas, in December 2013, the City Council adopted Resolution 2013R-540, City Pledge to combat commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of juveniles and establishing the Minneapolis Coordinating Committee to Prevent Juvenile Sex Trafficking; and

Whereas, since then, the City has recognized the victims of commercial sexual exploitation as survivors of abuse and has implemented policies, programs, trainings, and resources to support survivors and end commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, including the public and private collaboration to raise awareness about and prevent sex trafficking during the 2018 Super Bowl; and

Whereas, the City was one of three cities in the country to be awarded a two-year Pathways to Freedom grant from Humanity United and the NoVo Foundation to create and implement a comprehensive plan to address human trafficking, with a focus on labor trafficking and exploitation; and

Whereas, research shows that people who are living in poverty, experiencing homelessness, facing chemical dependency, overcoming mental health issues, and who identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ and/or undocumented immigrant community are more likely to become the targets of exploitation and trafficking; and

Whereas, the City has demonstrated its commitment to addressing these injustices by passing an ordinance to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and provide paid sick and safe time to low-wage workers, establishing the Navigation Center to provide immediate housing for the unhoused, launching the Mayor’s Multijurisdictional Opioid Task Force, creating the Transgender Equity Council, and approving a Municipal Identification ordinance; and

Whereas, the City has shown leadership on this issue through the work of the Minneapolis Police Department, the City Attorney’s Office, the Minneapolis Health Department, the Civil Rights Department, the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Regulatory Services, and the City Coordinator’s Office;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That it hereby reaffirms its commitment to ensure Minneapolis is a safe, healthy, respectful, loving, and peaceful place to live for all women and children, men and families, youth and elders, and people of all ages, genders, cultures, and walks of life;

Be It Further Resolved that the City will expand its efforts to prevent the exploitation and trafficking of any person by strengthening our City's work to include both sexual and labor exploitation and trafficking; to deepen our partnerships with social service providers to support survivors, their families, and communities; to provide resources and opportunities for survivors to take leadership; to be a champion of policy reforms that better address the lived experiences of those who are or have been sexually exploited or labor trafficked; and to bring forward a unified and comprehensive City plan to end commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking.